

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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RE: Docket No. OOD-1598

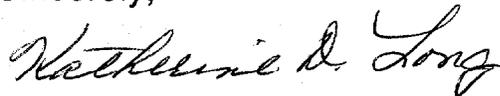
Mandatory labeling was the primary message heard from the FDA public hearings on genetic engineering in 1999, and in the FDA's own consumer focus groups in May 2000. The recent final report of the joint EU-U.S. Biotechnology Consultative Forum also emphasized the importance of mandatory labeling of genetically modified food products as an important tool in providing consumers with relevant information.

The proposed guidance on labeling is unacceptable. That the FDA continues to deny mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods is contrary to what the Agency has consistently heard from the majority of consumers.

In addition, the FDA's decision to encourage voluntary labeling instead of mandatory labeling unfairly puts the burden on manufacturers who choose not to use bioengineered ingredients instead of on those who are introducing this new technology into our food supply.

I fully expect the FDA to listen to the will of the people. Mandatory labeling of foods that contain genetically modified ingredients is essential. Consumers deserve the right of informed choice in the selection of food for themselves and their families

Sincerely,



Katherine D. Long
5004 Balcones Drive
Austin, TX 78731

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